



Human Rights Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday October 19, 2022

Time: 8:00PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy To prevent abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e., Zoom Bombing), all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

When: October 19, 2022, 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Present: Co-Chair Soneja, Co-Chair Carney, Commissioners, Bauer, Pusey, Rogers, Beauchemin, Horowitz, Brown

Absent: Commissioners Jolin, Carey

DEI Office: Teresa Marzilli

Guests: Jennifer Susse, Captain Richard Flynn, Sharon Grossman

Community Members: Elizabeth Dray, Rebecca Gruber, Laurie Key

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgment
 - a. Recited by Co-Chair Soneja
2. Hybrid Meeting Participation- Jennifer Susse
 - a. Pilot program to get going in November or December a number of decision points to work through, plan to utilize neat bar pro in community

- center to try out technology before recommending or not to Town Meeting to have all meetings hybrid
 - b. Commissioner Grossman put forth motion to create a working group to put together process and procedures for hybrid pilot study – all in favor
 - c. Commission will formally vote on whether to join pilot study in November
 - d. Commissioners Bauer, Grossman, Carney will be a part of working group
 - e. Commissioner Pusey will be trained
3. Review of September 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes
- a. Motion to approve as written by Commissioner Roger, seconded by Commissioner Pusey
 - b. Passed with abstentions from Commissioners Grossman
4. Incidents & Complaints
- a. Graffiti at Ottoson – Officer Flynn spoke with SR White cleaned and locked down bathroom, unable to find who did it
 - b. Road rage incident with hate speech, Captain Flynn clarified that they treated incident as hate crime but legally could not pursue because person was not part of protected class
 - c. Black Lives Matter signs stolen from yard- Captain Flynn recommends that people report directly to police if they are able
 - d. Captain Flynn did not report other incidents
5. DEI Update
- a. Commission Vacancies Update
6. Working Groups Update
- a. Schools & Education
 - i. Commissioner Grossman & Co-Chair Soneja working to get regular meetings with DEI Director Credle-Thomas & Director Harvey about issues coming up at schools Ottoson swastikas, need to update procedures for reporting hate incidents
 - ii. Strategic Planning committee for Equity Audit Sept- October creating forums for public engagement
 - iii. Commissioner Roger will circulate Multicultural calendar
 - b. Outreach/Events
 - i. Getting books, trifold, language brochure out
 - ii. November Native American History month banners, next steps for coordinating
 - iii. MLK Day Committee
 - iv. Rotating banners in public places in Arlington
 - v. May Historical Society Plans
 - c. Communications
 - i. Posted reproductive rights statement, Indigenous Peoples Day events
 - ii. Putting language cards online
 - iii. Working on Town Day data with Commissioner Carey, DTG & AFR
 - iv. November will work on domain transfer status
 - v. Teresa and Commissioner Pusey will work on mail chimp

- vi. Newsletter template in PDF, Commissioners Roger & Grossman recommend putting it out in December as a recap/new information
- d. Housing
 - i. No updates
- 7. Indigenous Peoples' Day
 - a. Co-sponsorship event with Robbins Library & Italian Americans for Indigenous Peoples
 - b. Eastern Suns drumming held by Belmont Fights Racism & Belmont HRC, held in senior center, 50 or so attendees
 - c. Winchester Wright Locke Farm with Network for Social Justice, Commissioner Soneja and Commissioner Carney volunteered, well attended & engaged, family event, Commissioner Soneja on MA Indigenous Agenda Table
 - d. Newton event, very large, well-attended, moving and powerful
- 8. MAHRC Update
 - a. 18 people, 8 towns represented
 - b. Land acknowledgements- are they only feel good? Are the tribes cited correct?
 - c. Hingham started an Under 30 event, likeminded young adults
 - d. Duxbury bought a picnic table citizens wrote messages of hope sent it to Senior center
 - e. Eastern religious holidays calendar
 - f. Belmont raising funds for private transportation for METCO students to stay late/play sports without burden of cost on family, Bowtie Limousine
 - g. Commissioner Grossman friend starting Friends of METCO Group- if anyone wants to get more involved can contact
 - h. Wayland developing a list of standard questions commissioner applicants would be asked
- 9. Update: Signs/Statues as a Tribute to Indigenous People in Arlington-Comm.-Comm. Pusey
 - a. Commissioner Pusey working on redrafting Land Acknowledgement, draft copy of where Land Acknowledgements can be added around town
 - b. Commissioner Grossman asking whether we need a new resolution
 - c. Co-Chair Soneja suggests we may need a working group to rework
 - d. Rebecca Gruber states that Christian Klein read land acknowledgement at ZBA event
- 10. Co-Chairs Report
 - a. LGBTQIA+ have two new members, encouraged being direct, relational
 - b. Retreat Update
 - i. 1-4 Saturday November 5th 2nd Floor at Community Center
 - c. BOLA Wrap update: not in use yet, will review
 - i. Chief Flaherty went to meeting about question 4 licenses for residents without status, supports the passing of
 - ii. Town has officially been served with civil rights lawsuit from Mr. Johnson
 - iii. Faith in Blue event had 200 kids

- iv. APD open to outreach with any faith groups
- v. Anti-Bias Call with AG Office with Calum Farley ADL
- vi. Captain Flynn encourages residents who see stickers/propaganda for alt-right/white supremacist organizations they should call police, can go through website

11. Community Input

- a. None

12. Discussion: Possible Statement on events in Iran

- a. Voted unanimously Co-Chair Soneja, Commissioner Beauchemin, Pusey to assist
- b. Co-chair Soneja recommends putting in history of women as leaders in activism in Iran, has spoken with Iranian resident, could include call for elected leaders
- c. Put in resources to understand historical context
- d. Cross-sharing powerful statements from Iranian women
- e. Statements to be simpler – using native media of the protests
- f. Resharing information from Question 4 on social media

13. Announcements

- a. Next meetings – November 16, December 21
- b. Incident Handling
 - i. October-Commissioner Bauer
 - ii. November-Commissioner Rogers
 - iii. December-Commissioner Beauchemin

14. Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 8:00 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance to attend this meeting should contact dei@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.